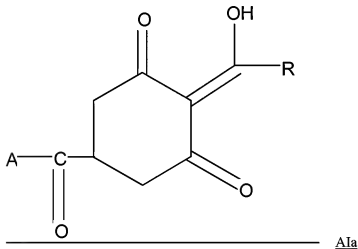


Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claim 1, ADD claim 12 and CANCEL claims 2 – 9 as indicated in the listing below without prejudice to the subject matter involved. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting the formation of Coniferophyta pollen, which comprises applying a pollinosis inhibiting effective amount of a composition comprising a prohexadione compound as an active ingredient to the Coniferophyta plant to be treated, wherein said prohexadione compound is represented by the following formula A1a:



wherein A represents -OR₂.

R represents an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, and

R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a haloalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxyalkyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkylthioalkyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group having 5 or 6 carbon atoms, or a phenyl group or an aralkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons.

Claims 2 – 9 are canceled.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said Coniferophyta plant is *Cryptomeria japonica*.

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein R represents a cycloalkyl group having 3 carbon atoms and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom.